

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00  
CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11 NSC-05 OES-07  
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P 030027Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0623  
DEAHQS WASHDC PRIORITY  
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ALL CONSULATES MEXICO BY POUCH

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DEAHQS FOR ENOL, EN, IG

EO:11652:N/A  
TAGS:SNAR/MX  
SUBJECT: GOM ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION ACTIVITY REPORT,  
MAY 22-28, 1978, FIELD OPERATIONS THROUGH JUNE 2.

1. GOM ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION STATISTICS FOR THE  
21ST WEEK OF 1978 ARE OUTLINED BELOW. FIGURES IN PAREN-  
THESIS REFLECT CUMULATIVE TOTAL EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1977.

ERADICATION, MAY 22-28, 1978  
ZONES 5 - 9 3 - 4 1 - 2 TOTAL

A. POPPY FIELDS	21	0	0	21 (15,361)
B. HECTARES	1.76	0	0	1.76 (1249)
C. MARIHUANA FIELDS	8	0	5	13 (2228)
D. HECTARES	.74	0	.499	1.239 (459)
E. MIXED FIELDS	0	0	0	0 (111)
F. HECTARES	0	0	0	0 (18)

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INTERDICTION, MAY 22-28, 1978  
- TOTAL THIS PERIOD CUMULATIVE TOTAL

A. KG. HEROIN	.701	69.886
B. KG. OPIUM	18.625	282.416
C. KG. OPIUM SEED	0	66.936
D. HEROIN LABS	1	11
E. KG. COCAINE	.002	33.592

F. KG. MARIHUANA	5,252	282,663
G. KG. MARIHUANA SEEDS	2.100	1,186.977
H. KG. HASHISH	0	59.875
I. LITERS HASHISH OIL	0	.250
J. KG. PEYOTE	0	11.85
K. D.U. DANGEROUS DRUGS	0	1,511,105
L. ARRESTS-MEXICAN	99	2,104
M. ARRESTS-U.S.	1	73
N. ARRESTS-OTHER	0	12
O. VEHICLES	12	325
P. WEAPONS	22	749
Q. AMMUNITION	488	33,277
R. PESOS	8,474.00	446,723.00
S. DOLLARS	0	33,812.00
T. AIRCRAFT	1	26

2. ERADICATION STATISTICS FOR THE 21ST WEEK OF 1978 HAVE BEEN COMPARED WITH THOSE FOR THE SAME PERIOD IN 1977. TWENTY-ONE POPPY FIELDS WERE DESTROYED DURING THE 21ST WEEK OF 1978, WHEREAS 19 MIXED POPPY AND MARIHUANA FIELDS WERE DESTROYED DURING THIS SAME PERIOD IN 1977. AS REGARDS AREA DESTROYED, 1.76 HECTARES OF POPPIES WERE DESTROYED DURING THE 21ST WEEK OF 1978 AS COMPARED WITH 28 HECTARES (MIXED FIELDS) DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN 1977. NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE REGARDING THE PERCENTAGE OF THE 28 HECTARES COMPRISING POPPY AND PERCENTAGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMPRISING MARIHUANA. THERE IS NO CHANGE TO THE BASIC TREND OF SMALLER FIELDS IN 1978 AS COMPARED TO 1977.

### 3. FIELD OPERATIONS:

A. ZONE 03, URUAPAN, STATE OF MICHOACAN: ZONE COORDINATOR ROSSANO Y MALDONADO INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER DURING HIS RECENT TDY ON PROCEDURES HE IMPLEMENTED AND OTHERS UNDER CONSIDERATION DESIGNED TO UPGRADE HIS OPERATIONS AND OPTIMIZE THE UTILIZATION OF HIS RESOURCES. COORDINATOR DIVIDED HIS ZONE INTO SEVEN SECTIONS IN BUILT-UP AREAS ADJACENT TO ROADS FOR LOGISTICS SUPPORT. ADDITIONALLY, THE AREAS SELECTED HAVE A MILITARY DETACHMENT WHICH PROVIDES SECURITY AND SUPPORT IN THE FIELD OPERATIONS, AND A HARD STRIP TO ACCOMMODATE LIGHT AIRCRAFT.

- (1) TOWN OF ZAMORA: SECTORS 200, 201, 202 AND 218.
- (2) MORELIA (CAPITAL CITY): SECTORS 219,220 AND 223.
- (3) URUAPAN: PRESENTLY THE COORDINATORS' HEADQUARTERS FOR THE . SECTORS 216,217,231 AND 232.
- (4) HUETAMO: SECTORS 234, 235, 248 AND 251.
- (5) LAZARO CARDENAS: SECTORS 230, 244 AND 245.

(6) COALCOMAN: SECTORS 198, 213, 214 AND 215.

(7) COLIMA (CAPITAL CITY, STATE OF COLIMA): SECTORS

191, 192, AND 197.

THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THE ZONE HEADQUARTERS MAY BE MOVED TO THE CITY OF APATZINGAN WHICH IS LOCATED FURTHER SOUTH FROM URUAPAN. THERE WERE NUMEROUS INCIDENTS OF HOSTILE GROUND FIRE AGAINST THE HELICOPTERS DURING THE PAST CAMPAIGN AND THE DECISION TO MOVE TO A NEW BASE IS PREDICATED ON PREPONDERANT MILITARY PRESENCE DUE TO BATTALION HEADQUARTERS IN APATZINGAN. A CHECK OF POPPY FIELD DESTRUCTION RECORDS AT THE ZONE HEADQUARTERS INDICATES A TOTAL

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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OF 231 FIELDS DESTROYED DURING PERIOD JANUARY-MAY 1977, AND 47 FIELDS REPORTED DESTROYED DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN 1978. MOST AG PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE ZONE JUDGE THE DRASTIC DIMINUTION OF FIELDS IS ATTRIBUTED TO CONTINUOUS SPRAY FORCE PRESSURE, MILITARY PRESENCE THROUGH LAND PATROLS AND, POSSIBLY, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IS THE SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITIONS.

ZONE COORDINATOR COMMENTED TO EMBASSY OFFICER ON HIS RECENT MEETING WITH COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE CAVALRY UNIT IN THE STATE OF COLIMA WHO EMPHASIZED THE MILITARY'S COMMITMENT FOR COORDINATION WITH AG ELEMENTS ON ALL TACTICAL OPERATIONS AS ORDERED BY HIGHER HEADQUARTERS. PURSUANT TO THEIR COORDINATION, THE CO ALSO NOTIFIED THE COORDINATOR, HE MUST PROVIDE LODGING AND FOOD FOR AG ELEMENTS WHENEVER IN THE FIELD AND ASSIGN OFFICERS TO ALL FLIGHT

MISSIONS TO ACCOMPANY AG CREWS. THERE ARE TWO CRITICAL DEFICIENCIES NOTED BY EMBASSY OFFICER WHICH RELATE TO UNTIMELY PAYMENTS OF PER DIEMS FOR PERSONNEL WHO ARE TRANSFERRED TO MEET CAMPAIGN REQUIREMENTS AND THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK WHICH DOES NOT PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LINK BETWEEN AIRFLEET AND THE COMMAND BASE IN URUAPAN. THESE SITUATIONS ARE SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND CHIEF OF TELCOM DIVISION. THE CHIEF OF THE RECON AND VERIFICATION UNIT (URVE) ASSIGNED TO URUAPAN HAS DEVELOPED A WEATHER OVERLAY WHICH INDICATES POTENTIAL POPPY GROWING AREAS BASED ON CLIMATE, ALTITUDE, MOISTURE, ETC. AND THEY ARE MONITORING THESE AREAS PERIODICALLY TO DETECT ANY SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURES FROM TRADITIONAL GROWING AREAS.

B. ZONE 06: CULIACAN, STATE OF SINALOA: EMBASSY AVIATION OPERATIONS ADVISOR CARSON, WHO WAS RECENTLY IN CULIACAN TO PERFORM ON-THE-JOB TRAINING FOR THE ROTARY WING PILOTS REPORTED THE AMOUNT OF POPPY AND MARIHUANA FIELDS DETECTED DURING HIS THREE DAY TDY WAS MARGINAL. A TOTAL OF TEN POPPY FIELDS WAS DETECTED IN SECTORS 101, 103 AND 118. APPROXIMATELY ONE DOZEN MARIHUANA FIELDS WERE DETECTED IN SECTORS 103, 116, 118 AND 119. EMBASSY OFFICER AROS, PRESENTLY ON TDY IN ZONE 06, REPORTED ON JUNE 2 THAT THE AMOUNT OF MARIHUANA FIELDS AVAILABLE WOULD NOT JUSTIFY SELECTING THE AREA FOR THE FORTHCOMING COLOR ADDITIVE TESTS.

#### 4. TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

A. TELECOMMUNICATIONS: TDY ELECTRONICS ENGINEER KATZ ARRIVED AS SCHEDULED AND MET WITH EXECUTIVE OFFICER BAEZA AND OTHER SENIOR STAFF OFFICERS INCLUDING CHIEF OF TELECOM DIVISION. AN ITINERARY WAS DEVELOPED AND APPROVED BY BAEZA WITH THE UNDERSTANDING KATZ WOULD PROVIDE A BRIEFING FOR BAEZA PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. KATZ EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO MEET WITH EQUIPMENT OPERATORS AND MONITOR THE OPERATIONAL USE OF PORTABLE UNITS AS HE DID NOT VISUALIZE ANY MAINTENANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NANCE PROBLEMS. THUS FAR, KATZ HAS MET WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MFJP AND IS PRESENTLY IN ZONE 06 TO OBSERVE THE OPERATIONS AT THE CULIACAN HANGAR, FLEW TO ONE OF THE ADVANCE BASES, AND OBSERVED THE PERMANENT ROADBLOCK OPERA-

TION BETWEEN THE STATES OF SINALOA AND SONORA.

B. AVIATION OPERATIONS: ROBERT DUFAU SUCCESSFULLY TERMINATED HIS THIRD TDY IN MEXICO RELATED TO TRAINING OF BOTH ROTARY AND FIXED WING PILOTS. EMBASSY CURRENTLY EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTRACTING DUFAU FOR 90 DAYS UNDER THE E-SYSTEMS CONTRACT BASED ON RECOMMENDATION BY CARSON. THE DIRECTOR OF THE TRAINING INSTITUTE, LIC. PONCE-ROJAS, INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER HE RECENTLY VISITED SOUTHLAND HELICOPTERS IN LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA TO EVALUATE THE PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM. HE ESCORTED THE SECOND GROUP OF TRAINEES WHO COMMENCED TRAINING ON MAY 29, WHICH BRINGS TOTAL UNDERGOING TRAINING TO 17. PONCE-ROJAS EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION WITH THE TRAINING IMPARTED BY THE CONTRACTOR. SEVEN OF THE FIRST NINE TRAINEES RECENTLY PASSED THEIR WRITTEN FAA EXAMINATION WITH THE REMAINING TWO SCHEDULED TO TAKE THE EXAMINATION SHORTLY. HE INCLUDED A VISIT TO THE TRAINING FACILITY WHERE THE 21 MECHANICS ARE RECEIVING MAINTENANCE TRAINING. HE CONFIDED THEY HAD A PROBLEM WITH ONE OF THE TRAINEES; HOWEVER, THE LARGE GROUP IS PROGRESSING WITH EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH RATINGS ACCORDING TO THE TRAINING CADRE.

C. MAINTENANCE: THE DECISION WAS MADE TO PERFORM A TECHNICAL INSPECTION OF THE PILATUS PORTER STOL AIRCRAFT TO PLACE IT IN OPERATIONAL READINESS FOR UTILIZATION. MINUTE INSPECTIONS OF THE ROTARY WING FLEET ASSIGNED TO SRAY MISSIONS HAS REVEALED EXTENSIVE CORROSION DAMAGE TO INACCESSIBLE AREAS IN THE UNDERSTRUCTURE OF THE AIRCRAFT.

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E-SYSTEMS CALLED TWO SHEET METAL SPECIALISTS ON TDY TO REPAIR CORROSION DAMAGE TO MODEL 212 PRESENTLY GROUNDED FOR 1,000 HOUR CHECK. SPECIAL PAINTS AND SEALANTS ARE NOW BEING UTILIZED TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE TO MINIMIZE THE CORROSION DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE HERBICIDES. DELIVERY DATE FOR CRASH-DAMAGED MODEL 212 (XC-BET) IS STILL SCHEDULED FOR LATE JUNE, ALTHOUGH THE REPAIR FACILITY IN NEW YORK (RAMAPO) RECENTLY INFORMED THEY DISCOVERED ANOTHER UNSPECIFIED PROBLEM.

D. COMPUTER PROJECT: CHIEF OF PROGRAMS AND PROCEDURES ADVISED EMBASSY OFFICER THEY NOW HAVE A TOTAL OF 50 EMPLOYEES ASSIGNED TO THE DATA PROCESSING UNIT (DPU) WHICH CONSISTS OF KEY-TO-DISC OPERATORS, PROGRAMMERS AND ANALYSTS. THEY ARE CURRENTLY COMPILING ALL INFORMATION RELATED TO PERSONS ARRESTED, VEHICLE AND AIRCRAFT LOOKOUTS AND SEIZED OR STOLEN WEAPONS. THE AG OFFICE DPU IS CURRENTLY WORKING TWO FULLTIME SHIFTS IN MEXICO CITY AND SINGLE SHIFTS IN SIX OF THE SEVEN OUTLYING CITIES WHICH NOW HAVE TERMINALS.

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E. SPRAYING OPERATIONS: JOHN D. FORD ARRIVED ON MAY 31 AND MET WITH EXECUTIVE OFFICER BAEZA THE FOLLOWING DAY TO NEGOTIATE HIS CONTRACT FOR A THIRTY-DAY PERIOD. BAEZA UNDERSCORED ALL THE REQUIREMENTS WHICH ADDRESS THE SUPERVISION OF AG PERSONNEL IN THE FIELD THROUGH AN INTERMEDIARY, TESTING A MINIMUM OF THREE COLORING AGENTS, AND A FINAL REPORT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE BEST DYE FOR EASY DISTINCTION OF SPRAYED MARIHUANA. BAEZA INDICATED THEY INTEND TO GIVE THE TESTING WIDE PUBLICITY BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. FORD SIGNED HIS CONTRACT WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ON FRIDAY, JUNE 2, WITH FIELD TESTING SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE AS SOON AS THE COLORING AGENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN COUNTRY.

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